This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A polysaccharide derivative consisting of a bio-polysaccharide backbone and organic radicals having a molecular weight < 5000 bound thereto via ether bridges, in which the organic radicals have the general formulae (Ia) or (Ib)

where R is a C<sub>6-24</sub>-alkyl group and R' is H, a C<sub>1-30</sub>-alkyl radical or a cation.

- 2. (Original) The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the biopoly-saccharide consists of  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$ -(1,4)- and/or  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$ -(1,3)-glucan units.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in one of claims 1 to 2 Claim 1, characterized in that the biopoly-saccharide has glucose, mannose, xylose, galactose, guluronic acid, mannuronic acid and/or galacturonic acid units.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The polysaccharide derivative as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3 Claim 1, characterized in that the biopoly-saccharide is a xyloglucan, glucomannan, mannan, galactomannan,  $\alpha$  or  $\beta$ -(1,3),(1,4)-glucan, glucurono-, arabino- or glucuronoarabinoxylan and, in particular, guar gum, locust bean gum, xanthan gum, carrageenan, alginates, pectins, starch, cellulose and derivatives thereof.
- 5. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a polysaccharide derivative as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4 Claim 1, characterized in that the polysaccharide is reacted under base catalysis with N-( $C_{6-24}$ -)alkylmaleamic acid or a salt thereof, where optionally the carboxylic acid function of the maleamide component, before or after the reaction, is esterified with an alcohol R'-OH, where R' =  $C_{1-30}$ -alkyl.
- 6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the N-alkylmaleamide has been obtained from a fatty acid amine of the general formula R-NH<sub>2</sub>, where  $R = C_{6-24}$ -alkyl, and maleic anhydride.
- 7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in either claim 5 or 6 Claim 5, characterized in that the maleamide component has been cyclized to the maleimide derivative before the reaction with the polysaccharide.

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- 8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in one of claims 5 to 7 Claim 5, characterized in that the maleamide component is cyclized to the succinimide derivative after the reaction with the polysaccharide.
- 9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in one of claims 5 to 8 Claim 5, characterized in that the polysaccharide derivative, after addition of the organic radical has been performed, is precipitated out, preferably using a mineral acid.
- 10. (Currently Amended) The use of the polysaccharide derivative as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4 Claim 1 for binding to cellulose fibers.
- 11. (Original) The use as claimed in claim 10 for textile treatment.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in either claim 10 or 11 Claim 10 as biodegradable fabric softener.